

28 March 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting of 28 March 1969

DD/I called attention to KH-4 photography showing new SS-11 ICBM complexes and pointed to its significance in light of Secretary Laird's testimony on the SS-9. He expressed his concern that there may be a possible gap in our April reconnaissance coverage and stated that he will be discussing this problem with the DD/S&T.

Godfrey noted former President Eisenhower's worsening condition.



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Carver called attention to the Marquis Childs column in today's Washington Post.

25X1



DD/S&T reported that Dr. McLucas, NRO, will be here on Monday for briefings.

DD/P noted two reports confirming arms shipments from Cambodia to the Viet Cong.

DD/P noted receipt of a request from the FBI to support security efforts connected with Secretary Kennedy's 10-12 April visit to Australia.

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[REDACTED]

*The Director noted Senator Margaret Chase Smith's observation that our briefing before the Subcommittee on Bomber Defense was not completely satisfactory and his offer to visit the Senator to provide additional details.

*The Director noted receipt of a telephone call this morning from Congressman Sidney Yates asking whether background information concerning missile deployment around Moscow is classified. The Director replied in the affirmative and referred Congressman Yates to the committees of Congressmen Mahon or Rivers. The Director asked Maury to alert Bob Michaels to this matter.

*The Director pointed to the pitfalls of our use of estimative language in the PDB and asked that this be avoided in the future.

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[REDACTED]

L. K. White

*Extracted and sent to action officer

FAULTY MARS SHOT BY SOVIET HINTED

Failure Shortly After Asian
Blast-Off Is Reported

By PETER GROSE

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, March 27—

An unmanned Soviet spacecraft bound for Mars is believed to have failed shortly after blast-off early today at the central Asian space launching station.

This would mark a further setback to the Soviet program of interplanetary exploration, which, despite its high priority in Soviet space planning, has been plagued with difficulties since the first attempts to reach Mars in 1960.

The Soviet authorities have not announced the latest reported abortive Mars attempt, but fragmentary information available to Western monitors suggests that trouble arose through ignition failure of the second or third stage of the spacecraft.

First reports suggested some possibility of an explosion on or close to the launching pad of the Baikonur space station. This was not confirmed by later information, which pointed more to failure after launching, causing the spacecraft to tumble back to earth.

Analysts said the reported launching failure would have only a negligible effect on the Russians' manned space program, since an entirely different type of spacecraft was apparently involved.

Partial Success in 1965

Recent Soviet attempts to reach Mars have been carried out by spacecraft of the Zond series. After a total of six known failures during 1960, 1962 and 1964, the Russians achieved a partial success in 1965 when the Zond 2 spacecraft passed within 1,000 miles of Mars. A failure in the solar cells that power the spacecraft's sensing equipment, however, meant that the craft was out of communication for most of its journey through space.

The earlier failures are believed to have been a result of difficulties in the upper stages of the rockets. In 1962, five attempts to reach Mars and Venus were aborted from failures in the third or fourth stages, leaving the instrument-packed payloads in earth orbit.

These difficulties seem to have been solved in the smaller 2,500-pound spacecraft that the Russians have been using in their exploration of Venus.

Two Venus-bound craft are now midway in so-far successful flights aimed at achieving soft landings on Venus on May 16 and 17. They were launched five days apart in early January.

The Russians have already achieved one soft landing on Venus on Oct. 18, 1967.

Western analysts are awaiting word of a major Soviet step in rocket technology, the launching of a giant booster rocket that United States officials believe will be far larger than the American Saturn V. The first of this new series of rockets is known to have been ready for launching for several weeks.

Contrary to the immediate conclusion on hearing of today's reported launching failure, information now available to scientific analysts indicates that this giant new rocket was not involved in today's Mars attempt.

Ironically, the United States has had more success in exploration of Mars than the Russians. Though such interplanetary attempts have had lower priority in the American space program than the manned flights.

The first United States attempt to approach Mars was a success. This was the flight of Mariner 4 in 1965. This spacecraft passed within 6,000 miles of the planet, transmitting back to earth 21 photographs.

The next American Mars flights are only now under way. Mariner 6 launched on Feb. 24 and Mariner 7, launched today. If all goes well, these two spacecraft will pass within 2,000 miles of Mars in August, sending back telemetric data that could indicate whether or not there is water vapor in the Martian atmosphere.

The first American attempt to make a soft landing on Mars, the Viking project, is scheduled for 1973. There are no American plans for exploration of Venus.



Marquis Childs

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Vietnam Pacification Drive Takes a More Realistic Turn

DALAT, Vietnam—During the 70 years of their colonial empire in Indochina—Laos, Cambodia, North and South Vietnam—the French did very well for themselves. The big rubber plantations were highly profitable, as were other enterprises worked by docile natives.

Among the intellectuals they spread some French education. Aristocratic families sent their sons and daughters to Paris to school. They conferred French citizenship on a favored few. It was all very cozy in the French style.

Even during their war with the Viet Minh, as the Communists were known then, in the early years after 1947 they did not do too badly. The ranks were largely made up of the Foreign Legion. They suffered heavily in military leadership, however, as class after class went out of St. Cyr, the French West Point, to die in the jungles of Vietnam. During the latter years, before the disastrous defeat of Dien Bien Phu, the United States was pouring \$800 million a year into the French treasury to sustain the franc against the heavy drain of the war.

Dalat was their mountain resort. In this mile-high city with a vista of mountain ranges in the distance, their pleasant villas, little ravaged by the war, are evidence of their knowledge of the good life, whether in

France or in the far reaches of the empire. The Central Highlands were a buffer between the Indochinese and the mountain people, the Montagnards, and the French allowed almost no southerners except for their servants to settle in Dalat.

Now the responsibility for pacifying this mountain area, or trying to bring the Montagnards into the 20th century to live at peace with the Vietnamese, for trying to get the economy on an even keel, is jointly that of the South Vietnamese government in Saigon and the United States Mission. Ambassador William E. Colby, in charge of the pacification program, is in Dalat for conferences with the local province chief, a colonel in the Vietnamese army, and with his own officials stationed here.

Pacification has for long been a sneer word. It was bureaucratized for a costly venture in idealism which was erased by the Vietcong shortly after the pacifiers left the pacified village. Colby's predecessor, Robert Komer, was a tough-talking salesman who could marshal charts and graphs to show just what percentage of territory and people had been pacified. He met any challenge by mowing down the challenger with strong language. Komer went from here to be Ambassador to Turkey, where the Turkish Vietnam protesters celebrated his arrival by burning the embassy car.

SINCE last November pacification has taken a new and more realistic tack. The initial effort is to root out the Vietcong infrastructure, bureaucratized for the Mafia-like organization holding many villages in a discipline of terror, so pacification by day becomes submission to the VC by night. The rooting out is done by various organizations of the Vietnamese People's Police and by Operation Phoenix directed by the CIA. Phoenix undertakes to do to known terrorists what they have done to villagers collaborating with the government—reprisals such as beheading and disembowelling. The process includes road-building so a village will not be isolated and subject to VC incursions.

After at least comparative security has been established the work of pacification begins. Various forms of aid are made available. Each district chief is given one million piasters—at the legal rate close to \$100,000. He can use this for any form of improvement in his villages he sees fit.

A 48-year-old Foreign Service officer, Colby is the best type of civilian American working in Vietnam. He brings to his difficult—perhaps, in the long pull, impossible—task dedication

and tireless effort. Besides the long hours and the seven-day week in his Saigon office, he travels widely through the country for a

it sounds like mortaring mixed with small-arms fire. In the morning the old-timers say it was only outgoing artillery fire in support of the defenders of a hamlet five miles down the road who came under VC attack.

Colby visits the mayor, he inspects the police training school where recruits are squirming through the wire under live ammunition, and then he is off for Saigon with a briefcase full of papers to be studied during the hour's flight.

If there were more men like Colby and fewer of the time-serving advisers who are legion and whose so-called advice is like dust in the fierce wind of the war, the chances for arriving at a Vietnam free of war and terror would be greatly improved.

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There is still an inordinate amount of paperwork. The questionnaire of the hamlet evaluation survey, which must be filled out periodically by the American adviser to the province chief, is as detailed as an income tax return and almost as hard to understand. The returns are sent to Saigon and fed into a computer. Out comes the percentage—80-plus pacified. One must, as in the past, take these percentages with strong reservations, although they are probably more trustworthy than before in light of the village and district security operation.

HERE IN Dalat the problem seems to be security and a lack of troop protection. That is the complaint of the province chief who is about to be relieved by another army appointee coming from Saigon.

For three hours through the night the firing goes on. To the ear of the newcomer

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